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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani : Calcutta - 13.

4th January 1972

Press Communiqué:

CITU OFFICE-BEARERS' MEETING.

A meeting of the Office-bearers of the CITU was held in Calcutta on 3rd January 1972. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU presided over the meeting. The following communiqué has been issued after the meeting.

The CITU strongly condemns the continued murderous attacks against the leaders of the trade union and democratic movement in West Bengal. These attacks are a direct result of the deep-laid conspiracy of the ruling party which, with the help of anti-social elements and aided by the local authorities and the police, is behind all these attacks. Several trade union offices belonging to the CITU have been forcibly occupied or ransacked by these gangsters making normal trade union activity almost impossible. The murder of Com. Sunil Sen, member of the General Council of the CITU and a leading trade union functionary in Dum Dum area, on 31st December 1971 clearly shows that the ruling party after killing over 200 working class cadres and leaders is determined to resort to terrorisation tactics to suppress the rising tide of working class struggles in West Bengal. The police have shown their complicity to such an extent that the dead body of Com. Sen could not even be traced so far. While condemning this cowardly attack the CITU demands immediate action against the culprits. The Office-bearers convey their condolences to the bereaved members of the family of Com. Sunil Sen.

The CITU further condemns the transfer of hundreds of detainees of West Bengal to far away places like Tamilnadu and Kerala. The prolonged detention without trial of such a large number of persons only unmasks the type of democracy that is prevailing in West Bengal under President's rule. In the British imperialist style the detainees are now taken to such places where they cannot even meet members of their families. This inhuman act must be severely condemned by the entire democratic movement in India which should demand immediate release of all the detainees.

The President of India, it appears is either not aware of these happenings under his rule in West Bengal or is feeling totally unconcerned about them. Instead of condemning these actions he preferred to give a call for moratorium on strikes. The net result of this would be further attack on the workers legitimate rights, increase in the workload on the workers and further depression in wages. It should be worth noting here that the President did not say anything about the high profits earned by industrialists or the steep rise in prices level of essential commodities. The so called moratorium on lockouts is only a smokescreen to cover up the anti-working class character of his statement.

The CITU cannot be a party to any proposal to curtail workers right to strike in whatever form and under whatever plea.

The CITU Office-bearers demand immediate withdrawal of emergency and DIR being maintained just to help the employers and the ruling party.

The CITU condemns the DMK Government in Tamilnadu which has resorted to brutal repression against 16000 employees of Simpson Group, who have been fighting against the gross interference by the State Government in their trade union with the sole objective of imposing treacherous agreement on the workers. This action brought to the forefront the real face of the DMK Government which sought to impose on the workers reduced bonus, increase in the workload; reduction in holidays etc. The CITU congratulates the workers of Simpson Group for the magnificent unity they have achieved in this struggle and calls upon the working class to rally behind these workers so that DMK Government is forced to retrace from its steps.

MIC PANDIY
Secretary.

The News Editor,

for favour of publication.